

Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development
Approved Minutes
September 17 & 18, 2015
Sitka, AK

Thursday, September 17

Chair Fields called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m. The board, staff, and public recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The board approved the agenda. No board member declared a conflict of interest.

Commissioner Hanley and Mt. Edgecumbe High School Superintendent Bill Hutton presented State of Alaska service pins to school staff members Steven Dunn, Stephen Courtright, Andrew Friske, Bernie Gurule, Archie Young, and Dionne Brady-Howard. The Commissioner presented a Governor's Denali Peak Performance Award to Stan Johnson.

Superintendent Hutton introduced Gil Truitt, a member of the first Mt. Edgecumbe graduating class and a teacher, advisor, and administrator at the school for 33 years. Mr. Truitt described the school as a family and a network that spreads throughout Alaska and the Lower 48.

Dr. Mary Wegner, superintendent of the Sitka School District, spoke about her district's programs, goals, and achievements, including a five-star school that demonstrates growth among all students.

Public Comment

Dr. Lisa Parady, executive director of the Alaska Council of School Administrators, thanked the board for its retreat on strategic planning and said she looks to the board to set a vision, lead, and partner with school districts. She said there are unneeded and unfunded mandates in state law, including the requirement that at least 70% of a district's operating funds be spent on instruction.

Monica Goyette, executive director of instruction in the Mat-Su Borough School District, said the Alaska Measures of Progress changes in its third and fourth years. Districts need a constant metric before they can commit to instructional materials. She said that adding performance tasks to the Alaska Measures of Progress will increase the number of testing days, making it difficult to test all students in a grade on the same day, and adding a burden to correspondence families. Testing costs districts to have substitutes. She also was concerned that the department's terms for achievement levels in the Alaska Measures of Progress do not clearly show that some students are far below proficient.

Christie Reinhardt of the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education said the proposed regulation regarding diagnoses of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders is not broad enough to include all nurse practitioners who are capable of making such a diagnosis. She recommended that pediatric nurse practitioners be included. She also said nurse practitioners should be allowed to diagnose attention deficit disorders and attention deficit hyperactive disorders.

Tom Gamble of the First Alaskans Institute said school districts don't recognize students' tribal memberships, and race is an issue in schools. He spoke about the ANDORE project, the Alaska Native Dialogues on Racial Equity, and asked the board to become involved.

Posie Boggs of the Literate Nation Alaska Coalition said the department should not replace separate reading and writing assessments with an English language arts assessment. She wants the department to report separate student scores for reading and writing. Without that data, parents won't have the data needed to determine eligibility for special education.

Marilyn Pierce-Bulger, a nurse practitioner who owns a fetal alcohol spectrum disorders referral agency in Anchorage, agreed with Christie Reinhardt's recommendations regarding the diagnosis of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders.

Barb Chambers of a fetal alcohol spectrum disorders referral agency in Anchorage agreed with Christie Reinhardt's recommendations regarding the diagnosis of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders.

Michael Baldwin agreed with Christie Reinhardt's recommendations regarding the diagnosis of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders.

Jayne Ellerbe of a fetal alcohol spectrum disorders referral agency in Anchorage agreed with Christie Reinhardt's recommendations regarding the diagnosis of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders.

Clayton Holland of the Alaska Council of Administrators of Special Education agreed with Christie Reinhardt's recommendations regarding the diagnosis of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders.

Dr. Matt Hirschfeld, a pediatrician in Anchorage, agreed with Christie Reinhardt's recommendations regarding the diagnosis of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders.

David Nees opposed the repeal of regulations related to the expenditure of school funds for elections. It should be legal for school boards to pass resolutions related to elections, but school funds should be used in the classroom. He also said proposed regulations regarding testing for teacher certification should apply to administrators as well.

Daniel Gugala of the Crisis Prevention Institute, referring to Mt. Edgecumbe High School's proposed policy on restraint and seclusion, said it should require at least annual training. Debriefings after incidents should include students and staff.

Work Session

Agenda Item 2A. Mt. Edgecumbe High School social studies curriculum. Teachers presented an overview of the school's social studies courses and goals. They said that world history and global issues courses are electives. They explained the hours spent in a one-semester course. Sue

Hull suggested they consider an ongoing curriculum review rather than a six-year cycle. Alec Burris said world history should be a required course.

Agenda Item 2B. Mt. Edgecumbe High School math curriculum. Teachers presented an overview of the school's math curriculum, which consists of the state's math standards, and students' increasing participation in advanced math courses, the use of response-to-intervention labs, and a relationship with the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program.

Agenda Item 1. Strategic planning. This agenda item was taken out of order to accommodate the previous presentations by Mt. Edgecumbe teachers. Chair Fields said the board is interested in relieving school districts of mandates. Sue Hull said the board should restore the objective of having a culture of collaboration with districts. Chair Fields thanked the people who responded to the board's recent survey for its strategic plan.

Agenda Item 3. Mt. Edgecumbe High School restraint and seclusion policy. Mt. Edgecumbe Superintendent Bill Hutton said the draft policy addresses the concerns raised in public comments. Assistant Attorney General Luann Weyhrauch said the policy is bound by state statute, which includes a training schedule. The school can add participants to an incident debriefing.

Agenda Item 4. Carl Perkins plan. Dr. Susan McCauley, Director of Teaching & Learning Support, reviewed the department's plan to amend the state's Carl Perkins plan, in keeping with recent federal monitoring.

Agenda Item 5. Briefing on the Alaska Measures of Progress. Dr. Susan McCauley, Director of Teaching & Learning Support, noted new information on the department's PowerPoint presentation related to the Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP).

Chair Fields said it would be hard for parents to take assessment results seriously if the department uses the term "partially meeting standards" for achievement Level 1 and 2. Dr. McCauley said the department will provide information to parents and educators about how to interpret AMP results, including details about what skills and knowledge students have at a particular achievement level. School districts can provide their own explanations of achievement levels if they want to. Proficiency on the former Standards Based Assessment (SBA) does not mean the same as proficiency on AMP because AMP is more rigorous. Using the same terms for the SBA and AMP could lead people to inaccurately compare results from them, she noted.

In response to a public comment, Margaret McKinnon, Director of Assessment & Accountability, said that Alaska's English language arts standards are one set of standards and therefore they are assessed in one test. However, students' results are broken down into subscores for reading for information, reading literature, and writing.

Agenda Item 6A. Use of school funds in elections. Marcy Herman, Legislative Liaison, reviewed the proposed regulation to repeal regulations regarding use of school funds in elections. Statute and regulations for the Alaska Public Offices Commission govern the issue.

Agenda Item 6B. Challenging of courses. Marcy Herman, Legislative Liaison, reviewed the proposed regulations, in keeping with a new state law, to require school districts to offer only students in grades 9-12 the opportunity to challenge courses by demonstrating mastery of the material.

Agenda Item 6C. Diagnosis of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders. Commissioner Hanley said the language for the proposed regulation was provided by the state's chief medical officer. Board members expressed concern that the proposed regulation could be too broad, allowing untrained people to diagnose fetal alcohol spectrum disorders.

Agenda Item 6D. Early literacy screening. Commissioner Hanley said the legislature has removed funding for early literacy screenings and therefore the department has proposed a regulation to no longer require school districts to give such screenings.

Agenda Item 6E. Teacher certification. Dr. Susan McCauley, Director of Teaching & Learning Support, and Sondra Meredith, Administrator of Teacher Certification and Education, reviewed the proposed regulations. Asked about the proposed regulations creating barriers, she said university teacher preparation programs already require their students to take content area exams. Alaska also accepts content area exams from other states. It costs about \$180 to \$200 for a basic competency exam and \$200 for a content area exam. Kathleen Yarr said teachers should be able to use a variety of courses to meet new training requirements mandated by the legislature.

Agenda Item 6F. Participation guidelines. Margaret McKinnon, Director of Assessment & Accountability, reviewed the proposed regulation to adopt the department's assessment participation guidelines dated December 2015, which includes accommodations for a computer version of an English language learner exam.

Agenda Item 7A. College and career readiness assessments. Margaret McKinnon, Director of Assessment & Accountability, reviewed the proposed regulations. The state's requirement that students take a college and career readiness assessment as a condition of graduation ends June 30, 2016. The proposed regulations allow students who did not take a college and career readiness assessment while in high school to take one later and receive a diploma. Board members discussed the effect on rural students of the state's repeal of the college and career readiness assessment and elimination of related funding.

Friday, September 18

Work session continued

Agenda Item 7B. Juneau Community Charter School. Ryan Stanley, a Juneau Community Charter School parent, provided an overview and answered questions.

Business meeting

Agenda Item 9A. Use of school funds in elections.

Barbara Thompson moved and Kenny Gallahorn seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development open a period of public comment on 4 AAC 06.135 regarding Use of school funds in elections. The board approved the motion unanimously.

Board members discussed whether the department should provide a courtesy response to all public comments, to note that the comment was received. Deputy Commissioner Les Morse said the board would need to change its bylaws.

Agenda Item 9B. Challenging of courses.

Barbara Thompson moved and Sue Hull seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development open a period of public comment on 4 AAC 06.065 regarding challenging courses for students in grades 9-12 for course credit. The board approved the motion unanimously.

Agenda Item 9C. Diagnosis of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders.

John Harmon moved and Kenny Gallahorn seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development open a period of public comment for regulation 4 AAC 52.130 Criteria for determination of eligibility. The board approved the motion unanimously.

Agenda Item 9D. Early literacy screening.

Sue Hull moved and Kenny Gallahorn seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development open a period of public comment for regulation 4 AAC 06.713 Early Literacy Screening. The board approved the motion unanimously.

Agenda Item 9E. Teacher certification.

Barbara Thompson moved and Sue Hull seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development open a period of public comment for regulation 4 AAC 04.210 Highly qualified teachers, 4 AAC 12.300 Certification of teachers, 4 AAC 12.305 Teacher certificate, 4 AAC 12.307 Acceptance of educator preparation programs, 4 AAC 12.308 Approval of in-state educator preparation programs, 4 AAC 12.310 Designation and qualifying scores of teacher competency examination, 4 AAC 12.315 Teachers holding regular or advanced Type A certificates on September 29, 2005, 4 AAC 12.320 Alaska teacher performance review standards; reconsideration, 4 AAC 12.330 Endorsement requirements for teachers providing special education, 4 AAC 12.345 Administrative certificate (Type B); provisional certificate (provisional Type B), 4 AAC 12.346 Type B limited certificate, 4 AAC 12.347 Special education administrator certificate (Type F); provisional certificate (provisional Type F), 4 AAC 12.355 Special service certificate (Type C); provisional Type C, 4 AAC 12.360 Advanced special services certification (Advanced Type C certification), 4 AAC 12.370 Limited certificate (Type M), 4 AAC 12.372 Limited career or technical education certificate (Type M), 4 AAC 12.375 Limited certificate for instructional aide continuing teacher education program, 4 AAC 12.380 Retired teacher certificate (Type R), 4 AAC 12.390 Early childhood education certificate (Type

E), 4 AAC 12.395 Teacher endorsements, 4 AAC 12.396 Addition or removal of endorsements, 4 AAC 12.397 Mandating training requirements, 4 AAC 12.400 Emergency special services certificate (emergency Type C), 4 AAC 12.405 Renewal of certificates, 4 AAC 12.407 Content area examinations), and 4 AAC 12.900 Definitions. The board approved the motion by a 6-1 vote, Kathleen Yarr voting no.

Agenda Item 9F. Participation guidelines.

John Harmon moved and Kathleen Yarr seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development open a period of public comment on 4 AAC 06.775, Statewide assessment program for students with disabilities. The board approved the motion unanimously.

Agenda Item 10A. College and career readiness assessments.

Sue Hull moved and Kenny Gallahorn seconded the following motion: After considering all public comment, I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt the proposed amendments to 4 AAC 06.076 Determination of school age, 4 AAC 06.718 College and career readiness assessment after student receives a certificate of achievement, 4 AAC 06.723 Rare or unusual circumstances, and 4 AAC 06.790 Definitions. The board approved the motion unanimously.

Agenda Item 11. Teaching & Learning Support. Board members discussed the effects of budget cuts on the department.

Agenda Item 12. Assessment. Margaret McKinnon, Director of Assessment & Accountability, reviewed the upcoming field test of performance tasks on the Alaska Measures of Progress. Board members discussed the Mat-Su district's concerns expressed in public comment.

Agenda Item 13. Budget. Deputy Commissioner Les Morse reviewed the budgetary impacts from the legislature's special session. Board members discussed ways to make budget documents clearer to the public. The department provides very detailed documents to the legislature, Mr. Morse said. Sue Hull discussed the board's role in making budgetary recommendations. She wants the board to be better informed and to provide recommendations.

Agenda Item 15. Mt. Edgecumbe High School. Principal Bernie Gurule introduced students who presented on a Chinese language and culture program, a Sea tech class, and a robotics program. Board members expressed enthusiastic appreciation for the reports. The school presented a video about its residential program.

Agenda Item 16. Libraries, Archives & Museums. Linda Thibodeau, Director of Libraries, Archives & Museums, reviewed progress on the Father Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building construction project and talked about programs such as the Statewide Library Electronic Doorway, the Alaska Digital Archives, Live Homework Help, and the division's new publication, *The View from the Future*.

Agenda Item 17. Attorney General's report. Assistant Attorney General Luann Weyhrauch spoke about the board's bylaws regarding public notice and public comment.

Agenda Item 14. Rural education report. (Taken out of order.) Commissioner Hanley noted that Rural Education Coordinator Chris Simon accepted a new position. The Commissioner reviewed upcoming rural events that he will attend.

Agenda Item 18. Commissioner's report. Commissioner Hanley spoke about messaging the Alaska Measures of Progress among business and Native organizations. The Commissioner spoke about possible board resolutions concerning the size of small schools as a factor in the state's school funding, and concerning the desirability of maintaining statewide student access to college and career-readiness assessments. A number of board members had asked that these topics be brought to the board at a future meeting.

Agenda Item 19. Consent agenda. The board removed Agenda Item 19B and approved the rest of the consent agenda unanimously.

Agenda Item 19B. Minutes of the August 24, 2015, meeting. John Harmon amended the minutes to include his concerns about adopting new regulations related to teacher evaluation before Congress reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The board approved the amended minutes unanimously.

Board comments

Lt. Colonel Nall thanked the board.

John Harmon praised Mt. Edgecumbe High School and thanked the department. He expressed disappointment that the state will eliminate funding for college and career readiness assessments.

Dr. Keith Hamilton thanked Mt. Edgecumbe High School and the department. He said students need access to SAT, ACT, and WorkKeys assessments. He expressed concern about broadband and about student attendance.

Kenny Gallahorn praised Mt. Edgecumbe High School. He said the board should not place extra barriers on teachers. The SAT and ACT are needed in rural schools.

Barbara Thompson thanked Mt. Edgecumbe High School and members of the public who provided comments.

Sue Hull praised Mt. Edgecumbe High School and the department. She said the board's strategic plan can make a difference. She asked if the department could provide documents to help the board understand the department's budget.

Chair Fields thanked Sitka and Mt. Edgecumbe high School and invited board members to attend the conference of the Association of Alaska School Boards in November.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.